

The following is copied from the flip chart pages produced during the meeting and displayed throughout. These are not minutes, as such. There are additional comments to clarify some points, and answers or follow-up information is shown in italics.

## INTERLAKE MEETING NOTES

March 5, 2005

### AML-Abandoned Mine Land

work to begin in '05 or '06 depending on availability of funds—anticipated to start in '05, but other jobs were more costly, likely bumping Interlake to '06.  
1 year for warranty on work required which means sites must be left alone.

### WHIP-Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program

Div. of Fish and Wildlife staff helped secure Farm Bill funding for planting project over several hundred acres. Trails may eventually go through, but site must be maintained until **2008**

**Ongoing**—DNR is already trying to get groundwork done.

1. Checked on status of possible roads vacated by County Commissioners in Pike and Warrick counties.
2. Aerial photos for 2" contour topo maps being done. Needed to fulfill requirements for federal funds which will require a plan for Soil Erosion control as well as Hist. Pres, Archeological clearance and no evidence of endangered species disturbance.
3. Searching for funding  
\$175,000 requested for Interlake in current budget bill before Legislature  
Registration fees from OHV fund-30,000 currently registered, used for many other expenses, but some should be available for this project, especially when matching federal grants.  
Recreational. Trails Program—a federal grant, we have to match limited funds with 20% contact congressperson to support reauthorization of Transportation Bill  
What happens to bridal fee? *Currently we do not get a share, We can investigate that possibility in the future.*
4. QU. working w/DNR to improve habitat

### NEED to do

**Enforce DNR property regs.** *DNR has a book of property regulations that apply to all properties managed by DNR. These regs can be accessed online by going to <http://www.in.gov/nrc/properties/312IAC8.pdf>*

?What about env. reports/reg.  
when coal co. left-bond required?  
*Not required when abandoned at that time.*

**NEED to have**

Appropriate Signage explaining current status of property

**Discussion/remarks from group:**

- ? Why safer to hunt etc. than w/horses.  
Close it to everything.  
Discriminating to close to just certain activities.
- ? Why can I not help? I have equipment?
- ? What if someone who walks in gets hurt? Too much gray area about what I can/cannot do.  
Close to all use/trespassing to develop a plan. Someone on foot subject to safety hazard w/large reclamation equipment.  
Should make easier for CO to keep all out.

\*When asked for show of hands, consensus of the group was to close to all uses.

Law Enforcement response-- We do not have manpower to watch and keep all out.

**Additional comments:**

No Trespassing signs are like a padlock; honest folks respect  
Not asking 24/7 patrol  
Eliminates claims of discrimination  
Fear other users may then want to keep it exclusive and not allow motorized or horses again when open.

**Minimum requirements?**

Boundary survey-certified state approved surveyor required.  
Funds-requested in new budget, if approved must then be allotted.  
Jobs must be bid.  
State laws and regs must be followed for property development from bidding to contracts to approved vendors and materials.

Individuals contact legislators for support for project

**Re road closure**-there will be opposition-even support to reopen some.

**? Hunters w/disabilities allowed to use ATV to hunt?**

Not all properties can accommodate, but property managers will assist with locating for those who request.  
Would consider limited, controlled hunts similar to state parks if needed.

**? What about benefit events? Horseback, OHV events for specific charities with a portion to go to development of the property?**

Could be considered, probably require an account to be established. Any special events would require permits from DNR whether the property was open or closed.

**\*RECOMMENDATION\***

SIGN SHOULD SAY- No Trespassing

**? Are you going to close roads?**

*We are exploring vacating county roads within the property. Some roads already do not go through anymore.*

**Can we ride on the roads?**

*If the county has an ordinance that allows riding on the right of way, you can ride there unless or until the road is vacated. Persons riding on the road or right of way MUST have a valid driver's license and the vehicle must be registered.*

**More than one entrance so locals would not have to ride on state roads to get in?**  
*Point to consider when planning the layout of the site.*

**What about yearly pass? A swipe card? Gate(s) off legal county roads?**

*All points to consider when working on the management plan.*

Can I ride road now? *Yes*

Cannot get off(the road)? *Correct.*

**Open road is in Pike Co.**

Pike Co. allows riding on Co. Rd. right of way

Warrick Co does not.

**? If all activities are to cease-can we have progress report on website? *Yes***

**Can we consider doing in sections?** *Not sure if that is feasible, but we can certainly consider it and see if it would work.*

**Post plan on site?** *We would like to.*

**Plan in phases & open in phases.**

**MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

DNR

Concessionaire?

Contract?

**Have you consulted w/other states?**

*Yes-group of DNR staff visited St. Joe & LBL when planning for Redbird.*

**RE Hatfield-McCoy in W. VA. Legislators changed laws to eliminate landowner liability-also requires yearly membership fee.**

**Horse liability law-**

Post signs to limit liability-must prove owner responsible for injury  
Put liability more on rider than landowner

**Liability Ins. is an issue-concessionaires must have it and proof they have it.**  
difficult- usually expensive to get.

**To add legislation, start w/summer study committee to institute new laws or change current laws.**

**Set up task force-work w/WCRD**

**WE want to do something now**  
**We don't want to wait forever**

**Indiana has a total of 23,000 million-4% is available for public recreation, this includes all state, local and federal property (Hoosier Nat'l Forest)**

**? WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?**

1. Clean up days-with incentive
2. Spread the word
3. Provide comments-attend meetings  
uses, designs, management ideas
4. Mapping-trails
5. Get educated-Trail construction classes (Tread Trainer/INTR Riders)  
Trail use- TREAD LIGHTLY-IMBA- June 9-12, Brown Co.
6. Remove invasives

**Any mechanism or person in place to get work done?**

**There are lots of folks able & willing to help.**

**Fundraising on property? For the property?**  
**Donations-to what fund? *Still inquiring.***

**All interests should help w/specific events-equestrians help ATV riders; help one another, not just events that help own sport. Everyone support each other.**

**Multiple users-consider all-**  
What and where they can mix

**Time line-can we do?** *Yes, but at this stage it would be very tentative, especially with such limited funding.*

**Other topics of discussion--**

Education process

Develop Rules-as a group

Image problems due to advertising

**Next?**

**Quarterly meetings—can we do?** *Can try that.*

Work thru WRCD to schedule clean ups  
ride in pm.-to evaluate projects

**WRAP UP COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

**Group recommends we meet again 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of May**

**WRCD MTGS at 7:00P.M. - Evansville time**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of month  
@ Big Cycle

**Have to meet with other user groups not here today**

**No Trespass signs are not a done deal today.**

**We have to consider all users-don't make violators of historic users.**

**On some DNR properties roads open for access to vehicular traffic-not open to OHV use.**

**More feasible to limit uses and to road traffic than close to all.**

**Control access-sign to make enforcement feasible.**

**No designated trails-marked on property.**

**Disabled hunters must coordinate w/property mgr. if-when & where to use.**

**Property rules & regs apply to all DNR properties.**

**Determine activities in defined areas-put back uses one at a time, as they are able to be accommodated. Get boundaries set & open to uses as can.**

**Boundaries to protect both state & private property owners.**

**Some properties do have temp shut down areas- emergency access roads**

**Recommend close County Roads 1200-300-600 & get on the boundary issues.**

**? Can turkey be hunted on nearby reclaimed area?**

If not closed and not interfering w/ reclamation.

**Haspin acres-private-sign release-pay to ride. We need a place to ride.**

There are private places, and DNR lists them on the website.

**We've done it for 40 years-why do we have to pay now?**

Get OHV registered. How else do you fund all the needs on a property if nobody pays?

**Re fundraising \$ needed to support a day ride?**

**Can fundraiser be held at Redbird for Interlake?**

**(written suggestion for sign at Interlake to be posted at a central point)**

**"Interlake property is in a transformation process for the next few years. Then it will be open for everyone's enjoyment."**

**Suggested and recommended May 7 for meeting.**

**Suggestion taken, site secured.**

**Next meeting for update and comment is:**

**May 7, 2005 ,  
10 AM to Noon,  
Indianapolis time,  
Sugar Ridge Meeting Room.**